

2020 Puget Sound Ecosystem Recovery Targets Overview



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What Are Targets

Targets are policy statements that reflect the region's commitments to and expectations for recovery, or a measurable path to recovery, by 2020. Targets are based on scientific understandings of the ecosystem¹. Although targets are not regulatory, they are designed to guide the work of all organizations and people living in the Puget Sound region.

How Targets Will Be Used

The Partnership will use targets to guide revisions to Action Agenda implementation strategies, focus near-term actions, recommend allocations of funding and other resources to specific strategies and actions, and evaluate Action Agenda implementation.

The Partnership intends for all entities implementing the Action Agenda to make use of these targets as they identify and design activities that contribute to ecosystem recovery, allocate funding and other resources for Puget Sound recovery, and evaluate the effects of their investments and activities.

What Is The Process To Adopt Targets

Staff, subject-matter experts, the Science Panel, and implementing agencies and stakeholders are providing support to the Leadership Council's June 2011 decisions about 2020 targets by:

- Describing what is known about conditions needed for a functioning and resilient ecosystem; and
- Developing and evaluating a number of viable options for statements about desired conditions for 2020 that reflect (i) the understanding of what is (ultimately) needed for a functioning and resilient ecosystem and (ii) what is possible to achieve given understandings of the constraints of biophysical processes and social and economic conditions.

Technical materials developed by subject-matter experts and reviewed by Science Panel members are being used to convey the state of the science to support target setting.

During April and early May 2011, implementing agencies, local governments, tribes, stakeholders, and subject-matter experts met in workshops and provided written comments on technical materials to identify a range of target options for each target-setting topic.

¹ Applying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife definition of the "SMART" mnemonic for developing performance objectives, targets will be (S) specific, (M) measurable, (A) achievable, (R) results-oriented, and (T) time-fixed. For the Puget Sound Partnership, "results-oriented" would mean that the target would relate to ambitions for a recovered Puget Sound ecosystem.

On May 24 and 25, 2011 the Ecosystem Coordination Board discussed target options and members provided feedback about their preferences for each topic..

On May 26, 2011 the Salmon Recovery Council discussed target options for three topics and developed a letter to the Leadership Council to convey their preferences for target setting..

On June 16 and 17, 2011 the Leadership Council reviewed target options and made decisions on which targets to adopt. The review and deliberation of the Leadership Council considered the perspectives shared through previous forums and the written comments provided to the Puget Sound Partnership. Technical materials developed by subject-matter experts and the Science Panel's review of technical materials helped the Leadership Council understand the state of the science related to each target option.

On October 20-21, 2011, the Leadership Council will again convene to review target options and make decisions on which targets to adopt. Action will be taken on topics for which targets were not adopted at the June 16-17 meeting: land development, land cover, and upland birds. Target options for these topics will be developed in fall 2011 after further analysis and dialogue with subject matter experts.

Read additional information about targets at:

http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_2011_recovery_targets.php

² This might occur because of a lack of scientific understanding (e.g., what is the threshold of shoreline armoring beyond which specific ecosystem functions are lost?) or because the definition of "functioning" depends on social values as well as biophysical considerations (e.g., how much recreational and provisioning service do Puget Sound residents and institutions expect to obtain from recreational fishing?).

About The Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) was created in 2007 by the Governor and Legislature to recover Puget Sound. The Partnership is mandated to: 1) establish science-based recovery priorities, 2) manage performance toward recovery goals, 3) engage and enable partners, and 4) advance priority actions (protection, restoration, and pollution prevention). PSP leads the regional recovery effort for thousands of partners involved in the work – including statutory boards, state and federal agencies, tribes, local government, citizen groups, businesses, non-governmental organizations, as well as Puget Sound's 4.3 million residents.